

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – May 1, 2004 - 9:30 a.m.

Hampshire ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Worthington in the County of Hampshire.

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in election and in Town affairs to meet at the Town Hall in said Worthington on Saturday the First of May, 2004 at 9:30 a.m., then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE ONE: To choose all other Town officers as are not required by law to be elected by ballot.

Almoners of the Whiting Street Fund

Bruce Barshefsky, Beverly Bowman

Field Drivers and Fence Viewers

John Sawyer, Antonia Lake, Kevin Porter, Darlene Millman

Surveyors of Wood and Timber

Keith Manley, Christopher Powell, Clarence Witter

ARTICLE TWO: To act upon the reports of the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Board of Selectmen, Almoners of the Whiting Street Fund, and other elected or appointed officers or committees of the Town.

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by MGL Chapter 41, section 108 as amended, and Raise and appropriate \$29,924.00 for these salaries or compensations to be as of July 1, 2004 as follows, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Selectman, Chairman	\$ 1,875.00
Selectman, Clerk	1,648.00
Selectman, Member	1,648.00
Board of Health, Chairman	1,346.00
Board of Health, Clerk	1,346.00
Board of Health, Member	1,346.00
Moderator	50.00
Town Clerk	7,630.00
Board of Assessors, Chairman	3,360.00
Board of Assessors, Clerk	6,594.00
Board of Assessors, Member	3,081.00
Total:	\$29,924.00

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or Appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, \$108,851.00 for the following Town charges, or take any other act in relation thereto:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Selectmen's Expenses	\$2,000.00
Assessors' Expenses	1,750.00
Assessors' Software Contract	3,500.00
Assessors' Revaluation Expense	10,500.00
Town Clerk's Expenses	550.00
Election Expenses	1,085.00
Board of Registrars Expenses	50.00
Tax Collector Salary	11,199.00
Assistant Tax Collector Salary	500.00
Tax Collector Expenses	4,100.00
Tax Collector Software Contract	3,500.00
Accountant's Salary	8,249.00
Accountant's Expenses	635.00
Treasurer's Salary	10,061.00
Assistant Treasurer's Salary	500.00
Treasurer's Expenses	1,950.00
Administrative Secretary	8,694.00
Board of Appeals Expense	350.00
Conservation Commission Exp.	300.00
Town Office Maint. & Supplies	5,500.00
Town Hall Maintenance	8,500.00
Computer Maintenance & Sup.	500.00
Planning Board Expenses	600.00
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	208.00
Recreation Committee Exp.	1,200.00
Finance Committee Expenses	120.00
Annual Audit Expense	10,000.00
Town Reports	1,000.00
Law Account	7,500.00
Tax Taking-Collector	1,000.00
Tax Title Foreclosure-Treas.	1,000.00
Council on Aging	2,000.00
Historical Commission Exp.	250.00
Total:	\$108,851.00

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, \$109,491.00 for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Hampshire County Retirement	\$37,287.00
Group Insurance	26,808.00
Unemployment Compensation	300.00
Workers Compensation	5,444.00
Insurance and Bonds	35,752.00
Medicare	3,900.00
Total:	\$ 109,491.00

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, \$138,905.29 for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Emergency Mgmt. Salary	\$100.00
Emergency Mgmt. Expenses	600.00
Animal Control Officer's Salary	1,200.00
Animal Control Officer's Expenses	150.00
Police Department Wages	12,000.00
Police Department Expenses	6,000.00
Fire Department Expenses	22,240.00
Fire Chief's Salary	3,000.00
Fire Dept. Code Inspection Compensation	500.00
Fire Department Call Compensation	12,500.00
Constable Salary	100.00
Animal Inspector's Salary	500.00
Building Inspector's Salary	6,711.00
Building Inspector's Expenses	250.00
Plumbing Inspector's Salary	1,066.00
Plumbing Inspector's Expense	400.00
Wiring Inspector's Salary	1,678.00
Assistant Wiring Insp. Exp.	600.00
Gas Inspector's Salary	839.00
Board of Health Expenses	200.00
Board of Health Agent Compensation	3,500.00
Tree Warden Expenses	2,000.00
Veteran's Agent Salary	800.00
Veteran's Agent Expenses	175.00
Veteran's Aid	1.00
Disposal Works	49,840.00
Disposal Attendant	7,048.00
Hilltown Resource Mgmt. Coop.	4,307.29
Street Lights	600.00
Total:	\$138,905.29

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, \$9,612.00 to the Worthington Library, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Total: **\$9,612.00**

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, \$12,145.00 for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Center Cemetery Maintenance	\$3,075.00
North Cemetery Maintenance	4,300.00
Ringville Cemetery Maintenance	2,770.00
Historical Cemetery Maintenance	500.00
Grave Openings	1,500.00
Total:	\$12,145.00

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, \$275,920.00 for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

General Highway Maintenance	\$29,500.00
Winter Highway Maintenance	65,000.00
Highway Dept. Wages	74,820.00
Highway Superintendent's Salary	45,000.00
Garage Maintenance	6,800.00
Machinery Maintenance	29,500.00
Extraordinary Machinery Maintenance	6,000.00
Superintendent's Expense	300.00
Secondary Road Improvements	19,000.00
Total:	\$ 275,920.00

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate \$10,000.00 to establish a Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures, as provided by M.G.L Chapter 40, section 6, as amended, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Total: **\$10,000.00**

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, \$66,537.48 for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Interest on Loans	\$1,500.00
Fire Truck Bond E-1 Principal	19,237.41
Fire Truck Bond E-1 Interest	7,830.59
Highway Truck Principal	16,300.00
Highway Truck Interest	2,119.00
Highway Loader Principal	18,200.00
Highway Loader Interest	1,350.48
Total:	\$66,537.48

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,000.00 from the Stabilization Fund to purchase Turnout Gear for the Fire Department or take any other action in relation thereto:

Total: **\$6,000.00**

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 4 Section 12 of the Acts of 2003, which allows for Call and Volunteer Firefighters to participate in the Town's group health insurance plan.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$30,000.00 to purchase a used Backhoe for the Highway Department.

Total: \$30,000.00

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$40,000.00 to purchase a new One Ton Plow Truck for the Highway Department.

Total: \$40,000.00

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate \$1,101,676.00 a transfer and appropriate \$77,489.00 from the Debt Service Reserve to pay its assessed share of the Gateway Regional School District Budget for fiscal year 2005 and that it raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$156,672.00 required to fully fund the assessment and thereby approve the district budget for the year, provided that this additional appropriation be contingent on the approval of a levy limit override question under General Laws Chapter 59, s. 21C(g),(m).

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate \$228,175.00 for vocational education.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate as available funds the sum of \$125,117.00 from Chapter 246B, or any other amounts from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE NINETEEN: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for the Fiscal Year 2005, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town to accept any money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE TWENTY: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for Massachusetts State or Federal grant programs, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend monies received through such programs following a public hearing, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate, or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$6,922.00 for the yearly assessment for membership in the Hilltown Community Ambulance Association.

Total: \$6,922.00

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution: That the residents of Worthington call upon our legislators and Congressional representatives to support the mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered food and seeds and to support a moratorium on the further growing of genetically engineered crops, until there is credible and independent scientific evidence that these products are not harmful to our health, the environment, and the survival of family farms.

NOTE: ARTICLES 23 - 26 ARE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000.00 from Free Cash for settlement of civil action against the Town of Worthington.

Total: \$15,000.00

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000.00 from Free Cash for special legal services as noted in Article twenty-three.

Total: \$15,000.00

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum \$1,300.00 for the purchase of a Hewlett Packard laser jet printer for the Tax Collector or take any other action in relation thereto.

Total: \$1,300.00

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,500.00 from Free Cash to the FY04 Law Expense Account.

Total: \$1500.00

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN: To take action on any other matters that may legally come before said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the Town Hall at Post Office seven days at least before the time of said meeting. Hereof, fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands April 20, 2004

I have served this warrant as directed.

Christopher K. Powell

Date of Posting: 4/21/04

Kathleen Johnson

Robert M. Spencer

[Signature]
Board of Selectmen

Constable

ATTEST

GLOSSARY

APPROPRIATION: An authorization granted by a Town Meeting to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. A "specific" appropriation is carried forward year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by Town Meeting vote to another account.

AVAILABLE FUNDS: Free Cash, reserves and unexpended balances available for appropriation.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS: Estimate of money to be received by the Town from various sources such as licenses, state reimbursements, etc. The estimate is deducted by the Assessors from the gross amount to be raised by taxes when the tax rate is set.

FISCAL YEAR: A twelve-month period commencing July 1, to which the annual budget applies and at the end of which a Town determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

FREE CASH: Certified each July 1 by the Director of Accounts. This is the surplus revenue account (also called "excess and deficiency"), less any uncollected taxes of prior years. It is available for appropriation upon certification. By action of a Special Town Meeting after certification and before setting the tax rate, part or all of any unexpected "free cash" may be applied to reduce the tax rate of the current year. "Free Cash" is also referred to as "Available Funds".

OVERLAY: Is an amount of money raised by Assessors for the purpose of creating a fund to cover abatements and uncollectable taxes.

OVERLAY SURPLUS: Unused, accumulated amount of the Overlay for various years, which may be voted for extraordinary or unforeseen purposes.

RESERVE FUND: An amount appropriated for unforeseen or emergency purposes. An amount can be transferred from the Overlay Surplus Account to this fund, and it is controlled exclusively by the Finance Committee.

STABILIZATION: A special account created to provide for capital expenditures which is invested until used.

SURPLUS REVENUE: The amount by which the cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed the liabilities and reserves.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT: A written order calling an Annual or Special Town Meeting and containing a list of items to be acted upon. Warrants are posted at the official posting places (Town Hall and Post Office).